

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 IO-12 SR-02 ORM-03 IGA-02 PM-09 L-03 H-02

PRS-01 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 040189

R 131122 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 479

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E. O. 11652: GDS N/ A

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJ: REFUGEES- CRS, CARE, UNDP

FOR STATE/ AID

REF: (A) STATE 044213 (B) PHNOM PENH 1950

1. SUMMARY. BOTH CRS AND CARE HAVE SIGNED BASIC AGREEMENTS WITH GKR TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. CRS PRPRAM FOR REFUGEE RELIEF NOW TAKING SHAPE AND WE REQUEST WASHINGTON APPROVE A CRS REQUEST FOR A

\$500,000 GRANT. CARE TASK FORCE HAS ARRIVED TO BEGIN SURVEY OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBILITIES IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. UNDP IS RESTUDYING RESETTLEMENT PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. CRS. FATHER CHARLEBOIS RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH ON FEBRUARY 26 AND SIGNED A BASIC AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL LON NOL ON FEB. 27 COVERING CRS ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA. O' CASEY IS NOW THE PERMANENT CRS REPRESENTATIVE IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND IS STARTING A SMALL RELIEF PROGRAM USING FUNDS SUPPLIED BY CRS. THE EMPHASIS IN PROGRAM WILL BE ON IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO REFUGEES. O' CASEY PLANS TO CONCENTRATE INITIALLY ON FOUR ASPECTS OF REFUGEE RELIEF: (1) THE RECEPTION OF NEWLY ARRIVED
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REFUGEES IN BOTH PHNOM PENH AND THE PROVINCES - EMPHASIS WILL BE ON GIVING THE REFUGEES ENOUGH FOOD, MEDICINES AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO SURVIVE FOR A WEEK OR TWO WHILE GETTING SETTLED; (2) SMALL SCALE REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING CAMPS; (3) EMERGENCY FEEDING ON A LIMITED SCALE SUPPLIED BY LOCAL PURCHASE; AND (4) THE ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS TO EASE UNDEREMPLOYMENT AMONG REFUGEES. TRAINING WILL PROBABLY START FIRST IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND THEN EXPAND TO ENCOMPASS REFUGEES OUTSIDE OF THE CAMPS. THE CRS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO THESE FOUR AREAS. CRS WANTS TO REMAIN AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE TO MEET OTHER REFUGEE NEEDS AS THEY ARISE. WE BELIEVE THIS EFFORT WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES AND RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO A GRANT OF \$500,000 TO CRS. O' CASEY IS NOW IN CONTACT WITH THE CRS OFFICE IN NEW YORK AND EXPECTS THAT NEW YORK WILL SHORTLY MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST IN WASHINGTON FOR AN AID GRANT.

3. CARE. CARE IS READY TO WORK IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. LOU SAMIA, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VISITED PHNOM PENH AND SIGNED ON MARCH 3 A BASIC AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL LON NON COVERING CARE ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA. A THREE- MAN CARE TASK FORCE HAS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH TO START A DETAILED TWO TO THREE WEEK SURVEY OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. ONCE THIS SURVEY IS COMPLETED, THE TASK FORCE WILL PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR A CARE PROGRAM AND ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE WILL STAY ON AS THE NEW MISSION DIRECTOR. THE PROPOSAL, IF APPROVED BY CARE/ NEW YORK, WILL FORM THE BASIS OF A FORMAL REQUEST BY CARE FOR AN AID GRANT.

4. SAMIA FEELS THAT CARE CAN PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN RESETTLEMENT. HE ALSO FEELS THAT CARE CAN ORGANIZE A REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL MINISTER TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES AND PREPARE THEM FOR RETURN HOME OR RESETTLEMENT. ON HIS RETURN TO NEW YORK, SAMIA WILL EXPLORE WITH MEDICO THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SEVERAL NURSES TO WORK WITH REFUGEES IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. WE WERE IMPRESSED BY SAMIA'S EXPERIENCE AND HIS IDEAS FOR A FUTURE CARE ROLE IN REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT. WE WOULD FAVOR A GRANT OF \$500,000 TO CARE FOR REFUGEE RELIEF, ASSUMING THE CARE PROPOSAL LIVES UP TO EXPECTATIONS .

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5. UNDP. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH EWING OUR REACTION TO THE

UNDP PROJECT AS FORMULATED BY THE UNOTC TECHNICIANS, STATING THAT WE FELT IT WAS TOO AMBITIOUS AND NOT GEARED TO MEETING THE SHORT- TERM NEED FOR RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. EWING SAID HE WELL UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERNS AND ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD SUPPORT THE PROJECT IF IT WERE SIPLIFIED AND ACCELERATED. IN REPLY WE STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE UNDP AND STATED THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT IF IT WERE RECAST ALONG THE LINES EWING MENTIONED AND PERHAPS FOCUSSED ON AN INITIAL SETTLEMENT OF ABOUT 500 REFUGEES. HE IS CABLING NEW YORK TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO DEVELOP A SIMPLER PROJECT ON A SHORTER TIME SCHEDULE. DECONTROLLED AS OF 3/9/75.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahnfs.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120
Subject: REFUGEES- CRS, CARE, UNDP
TAGS: SREF, CB
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005